



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1968

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: J. E. T. BASTABLE

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

May 1969

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1968.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

There was no serious incidence of notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. J.E.T. Bastable, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to Mrs. V. Donovan for her efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Lois E. Brown

Medical Officer of Health

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 8

A. Area - 41,481 acres
 Rateable Value: 1st April, 1968 142,469
 Production of a penny rate: 1968/69 £578(est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 6,820
 Natural Growth of Population (births over deaths) 27

LIVE BIRTHS

COMPARATIVE RATES

	Male	Female		Sherborne R.D.C.	England & Wales
Total	57	53	)Rate per	17.1	16.9
Illegitimate	2	4	)1,000 resi-		
			)dent population		
			)= 16.0		

STILLBIRTHS

Total	1	nil	)Rate per 1,000	9.0	14.0
Legitimate	1	nil	)live & still-		
			)births= 9.0		

DEATHS

Total	41	22	)Rate per 1,000	9.0	11.9
			)resident pop-		
			)ulation = 9.1		

DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 Year	1	nil	)Infantile death	9.0	18.0
Under 4 wks	1	nil	)rate per 1,000		
Under 1 week	1	nil	)live births=	9.0	

Perinatal mortality = 18.0 18.0 25.0

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	nil	nil	nil	nil
Deaths from Tuberculosis	nil	2	nil	nil
Deaths from Cancer of Lungs	2	1	2	4
Deaths from Other Cancer	9	12	7	11
Deaths from Coronary Disease (Angina)	21	17	17	11
Deaths from Other Heart or Vascular Diseases	15	16	24	15
Deaths from Influenza	nil	nil	nil	nil
Deaths from Pneumonia	nil	8	4	2
Deaths from Motor vehicle accidents	nil	nil	2	nil
Deaths from All other accidents	nil	1	1	nil
Deaths from Suicide	2	1	nil	1
Deaths from Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	nil	nil	1	nil

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

The nature of the district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

The district is becoming increasingly a dormitory area for persons working in Sherborne and Yeovil.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT
which are not the responsibility of the District Council.

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved most co-operative and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee. No complaints with regard to the service have come to my notice.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic home help service and the welfare of the aged.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society and the W.R.V.S. who provide a meals on wheels service - at present limited in scope but which, it is hoped, will show expansion in the coming year.

Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people but, even more, (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals round. Eight people benefitted from this service.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Part time)

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Public Health Inspector - J.E.T. Bastable.

Certificate of R.S.I. & Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board as Public Health Inspector. Certificate of Royal Society of Health as Inspector of Meat and Foods.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector, Refuse Disposal and Maintenance of the Council's sewage schemes, and drainage, bye-law administration, the petroleum regulations, and under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act.

One Technical Assistant.

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk.

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supplies

The Wessex Water Board are the responsible Authority for the public water supply in the district.

The supply has remained satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year.

Thirty two samples were taken by the Public Health Department and forty two by the Board during the year.

Private Supplies

Apart from individual well supplies, there are the following communal supplies:-

Home of St. Francis, Batcombe; Harris Farm, Batcombe; Dyers Farm, Batcombe; Melbury Bubb; Woolcombe; Strangways Estates, Stockwood; Wyke, Castleton; Tollbridge Farm, Bradford Abbas; Manor Farm, Bradford Abbas; Blackmarsh Farm, Castleton; Pinford Farm, Castleton; Clifton Maybank House; Hilfield; Buckshaw House, Holwell; Leweston & Lillington; Compton House, Over Compton; Stallen Farm, Nether Compton; Gonville & Caius College, Poyntington; Hillside Farm, Poyntington; Staffords Green, Sandford Orcas; Holway, Sandford Orcas; Coombe Farm, Castleton;

Samples taken from private supplies gave the following results:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Batcombe	4	-
Bradford Abbas	6	4
Castleton	10	11
Caundle Marsh	-	2
Holwell	2	3
Nether Compton	1	-
Over Compton	1	-
Poyntington	8	19
Sandford Orcas	10	12

93 samples were taken.

There are still some 212 properties on private supplies in the district. Where unsatisfactory results have been obtained, the owners of the supplies have been notified and asked to institute measures to purify the water. The owners of estate supplies at Poyntington and Holwell have been asked to consider the provision of chlorination plants.

Where there is a public supply available, owners are encouraged to take advantage of it to connect to it.

DRAINAGE AND SEWFRAGE

All parishes not on main drainage systems have established nuisances arising from the disposal of foul and sullage drainage.

No new public sewers nor works were started during the year. The detailed schemes for sewerage of Over and Nether Compton and Longburton were submitted and approved by the Ministry and tenders invited. It is hoped that both schemes will be under construction in 1969. Preliminary reports were obtained on the need to enlarge the Thornford Disposal Works in order to cater for new development, principally in Yetminster. If sewerage schemes were implemented, the Urban District Council were asked to consider the possibility of taking foul drainage from Osborne and Poyntington.

Yetminster

Two private estates are now being built, comprising 88 houses when complete. The Council's proposal for 38 houses at their site off Coles Lane was submitted for tender and a start should be made early in 1969.

Totnell, Leigh

The problem of surface and house drainage nearby the Council's houses at Totnell was satisfactorily overcome and the nuisance abated.

Thornford

Housing Estate development has now been completed, no new scheme being envisaged.

Beer Hackett

The possibility of sewerage part of this hamlet to the existing sewer is to be considered at the same time as the enlargement of Thornford works.

Alweston, Trent & Bishops Caundle

Replacement of the distributor arms and dosing gear was undertaken at the Alweston works. The works at Trent, and Bishops Caundle, have been operating satisfactorily.

The ditch at Bishops Caundle mentioned in the 1967 Annual Report was piped in and no further complaints have been received.

Bradford Abbas

The works have functioned satisfactorily and the effluent samples have shown improvement on the previous year. Some blockages occurred in the main sewers due to misuse.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection

The new Dennis Refuse Vehicle has been in operation since April and was a great improvement on the side loader previously used. Osborne Tip was brought into being and, on the whole, maintained satisfactorily. Difficulty in maintenance did arise due to the almost continual mechanical breakdown of the Crawler Tractor.

It was necessary to invoke the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act to get three abandoned cars removed. Disposal facilities for unwanted cars have been negotiated between this Council and a scrap metal dealer in a neighbouring authority.

Salvage Scheme

No salvage was sold during the year.

Roadside Sanitation

Litter bins on lay bys are emptied on agreed terms with the County Council.

Cesspool Emptying

This service to occupiers of private dwellings not able to connect to a public sewer was continued during the year; three hundred and fifty five properties benefitted from the service.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

The procedure of notifying the appropriate River Boards of all plans received shewing new farm schemes likely to pollute ditches, streams and rivers, has been maintained. Complaints of pollution of ditches and streams have been dealt with as they arise.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Your Public Health Inspector is an inspector under this Act. Thirty inspections were carried out during the year.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No nuisances under this Act were reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	4	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	20	

FACTORIES ACT (Cont'd)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	4	
	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	

<u>Defects</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Unsuitable or defective sanitary convenience	1	1	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	

SWIMMING BATHS

There are three open air swimming baths in the district, one being restricted to school pupils - the other two being used by the public if invited. All receive chlorination.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are thirteen sites for individual caravans licensed under the Caravan Sites (Control of Development) Act, 1960.

No. of inspections carried out - 14.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Compliance with a Nuisance Order to abate the accumulation of poultry manure was made by the farm concerned during the year. No other complaints arising from intensive farming were received.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which the Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The work of the Committee, in spite of staff difficulties, continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council. One premises in your district is registered under the Act.

No. of inspections carried out 4

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Inspections continued to be carried out under this heading, and conditions found were satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the persons themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dissociated from the compulsory removal.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises are registered under the Act in your district.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No public conveniences are provided by your Authority.

HOUSING

Total no. of houses in the district 2,375

No. of houses inspected during the year 60

No. of inspections made 158

No. of informal notices served 6

No. of informal notices complied with 4

No. of statutory notices served 3

No. of statutory notices complied with 3

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing
Act, 1957 ... 3

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made 1

Closing Orders in lieu of Demolition Orders 1

Undertakings accepted for Closure 1

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance

No action for the compulsory improvement of property lacking amenities under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1964, was initiated, since the majority of the houses in which such action would be appropriate are estate owned, and in respect to which a programme of voluntary improvement is being carried out.

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

Ten applications were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act and fourteen applications were received in respect of standard grants.

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Thirty seven new houses were built in the district by private enterprise (compared with fifty nine in 1967). None were provided by the Council.

Negotiations were continued for further Council house development at Yetminster and a review was carried out with regard to the provision of more units of accommodation in the parishes for old people.

Waiting List

One hundred and forty eight applicants were on the Council House waiting list at the end of the year, of which one hundred and thirty three were resident in the district.

Twenty four applicants were housed by the Council during the year, compared with seventeen during the preceding year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration 1

No. of 'Distributors' in the district subject to registration 6

Deterioration in bacterial cleanliness of washed bottles prior to being filled with milk occurred at one period during the year. Investigations into the washing procedure rectified the cause and subsequent samples were satisfactory. Delivery of milk in bottles with attendant problems of collection and washing does seem to be outdated and one can hope that in the not too distant future cartoned milk will be generally produced by the dairies and accepted by the consumer.

Samples

By arrangement and to avoid duplication, the sampling of milk in the district is carried out by officers of the County Council. Two hundred and eighty samples were taken during the year.

Brucellosis

No samples were taken by your officers for examination for Brucella infection. Routine examination of samples is made by the County staff and positive results notified.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No formal action under Regulation 20 was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business, subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:

<u>Trade</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16.</u>	<u>No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.</u>
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Cafes	1	1	1	1
Public Houses	16	16	16	16
Clubs	5	5	5	5
Church & Village Halls	14	14	14	14
Canteens - schools	10	10	10	10
Confectioners	6	6	6	6
Meat and Fish	1	1	1	1
Grocers	2	2	2	2
Mixed Stores	20	20	20	20
Boarding Schools	2	2	2	2
Food Factories	3	3	3	3
Guest Houses	2	2	2	2
	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>

No. of such premises inspected during the year 60

No. of inspections carried out185

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream 28
Sausages and Prepared Meats 1
Fish and ChipsNil

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene
Blue TestNil

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947-1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted for examination.

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no such premises in the district, apart from a few small poultry processing premises operating on a sessional basis.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1968.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	43	-	-	35	-
Number inspected	43	-	-	35	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	16	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	16.3	-	-	45.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

The results of inspection are tabulated on the preceding page.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total no. of inspections (under all headings)	2,010
Total no. of informal notices served	43
Total no. of informal notices complied with	34
Total no. of statutory notices served	3
Total no. of statutory notices complied with	3
No. of prosecutions	nil

E.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Scarlet fever	3
Whooping cough	17
Measles	5
Acute pneumonia	1

Tuberculosis:

<u>New cases notified</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	nil	1

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year but cases notified elsewhere were associated with an incident in your district.

A film unit, on location, was required to feed 1,200 persons in your district on dates in July when weather conditions were most favourable to such an outbreak. Some thirty cases of food poisoning were associated with this incident.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

